WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing system built by connecting a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, wherein said device connected to said system comprises:

communication control means for controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

a card interface for connecting a card device;

card control means for controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

communication means for sharing device information between said host device and said card device via said card control means and said communication control means; and

control means for allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by said communication means.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein said control means allows the other device to use one or both of operation input means and display means of said device connected via said card device.

3. The system according to claim 1, wherein said control means can exchange and arbitrarily read out status information of the other device connected via said card device.

4. The system according to claim 3, wherein said device includes a printer device.

5. The system according to claim 3, wherein said device is a host device.

6. The system according to claim 3, wherein said device is a card controller.

7. An image data processing method for processing data by exchanging information between a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, comprising:

the communication control step of controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

the step of executing a connection process to a card device via a card interface;

the card control step of controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

the communication step of sharing device information between said host device and said card device via processes of the card control step and the communication control step; and

the control step of allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by a process of the communication step.

8. A computer readable storage medium which stores a program module for making a computer implement an image

data processing method for processing data by exchanging information between a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, said program module comprising:

a communication control module for controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

a connection process module for executing a connection process to a card device via a card interface;

a card control module for controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

a communication module for sharing device information between said host device and said card device via processes of said card control module and said communication control module; and

a control module for allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by a process of said communication module.

9. An image processing system built by connecting a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, wherein said device connected to said system comprises:

communication control means for controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

a card interface for connecting a card device;

card control means for controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

communication means for sharing device information between said host device and said card device via said card control means and said communication control means;

control means for allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by said communication means; and

detection means for detecting based on the information shared by said communication means if said host device can communicate with said device, and

when said host device cannot communicate with said device as a result of detection, and when said card device receives a data transmission request from the other device connected to said host device, said control means saves the transmission request as error history information in storage means in said device, and when said host device can communicate with said device later, said communication means sends to said host device a message indicating that the error history information is stored in said device, and sends back the error history information to said host device in response to a request from said host device which received that message.

10. The system according to claim 9, wherein when said host device cannot communicate with said device as a result of detection, and when said card device receives a data transmission request from the other device connected to said host device, said control means saves the transmission request as error history information in storage means in said card device, and when said host device can communicate with said device later, said communication means sends to said host device a message indicating that the error history information is stored in said card device, and sends back the error history information to said host device in response to a request from said host device which received that message.

11. The system according to claim 9, wherein said host device comprises:

first information output means for, when the error history information is acquired, analyzing contents of an error that occurred when said host device could not communicate in accordance with contents of the information or a history, and outputting error information as a text message or icon on a screen or as an audible message on the basis of the analysis result so as to inform an operation error; and

second information output means for explaining a cause of the error and an operation sequence for removing the error.

12. An image data processing method for processing data by exchanging information between a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, comprising:

the communication control step of controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

the step of executing a connection process to a card device via a card interface;

the card control step of controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

the communication step of sharing device information between said host device and said card device via processes of the card control step and the communication control step;

the control step of allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by a process of the communication step; and

the detection step of detecting based on the information shared by the process of the communication step if said host device can communicate with said device, and

in that in the control step when said host device cannot communicate with said device as a result of detection, and when said card device receives a data transmission request from the other device connected to said host device, the transmission request is saved as error history information in storage means in said device, and in the communication step when said host device can communicate with said device later, a message indicating that the error history information is saved is sent to said host device, and the error history information is sent back to said host device in response to a request from said host device which received that message.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein when said host device cannot communicate with said device as a result of detection, and when said card device receives a data transmission request from the other device connected to said host device, the transmission request is saved as error history information in storage means in said card device in the control step, and when said host device can communicate with said device later, a message indicating that the error history information is saved in said card device is sent to said host device, and the error history information is sent back to said host device in response to a request from said host device which received that message in the communication step.

14. The method according to claim 12, wherein said host device comprises:

the first information output step of analyzing, when the error history information is acquired, contents of an error that occurred when said host device could not communicate in accordance with contents of the information or a history, and outputting error information as a text message or icon on a screen or as an audible message on the basis of the analysis result so as to inform an operation error; and

the second information output step of explaining a cause of the error and an operation sequence for removing the error.

15. A computer readable storage medium which stores a program module for making a computer implement an image data processing method for processing data by exchanging information between a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, said program module comprising:

a communication control module for controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

a connection process module for executing a connection process to a card device via a card interface;

a card control module for controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

a communication module for sharing device information between said host device and said card device via processes of said card control module and said communication control module;

a control module for allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by a process of said communication module; and

a detection module for detecting based on the information shared by the process of said communication module if said host device can communicate with said device, and

in that when said host device cannot communicate with said device as a result of detection, and when said card device receives a data transmission request from the other device connected to said host device, said control module saves the transmission request as error history information in storage means in said device, and when said host device can communicate with said device later, said communication module sends to said host device a message indicating that the error history information is stored in said device, and sends back the error history information to said host device in response to a request from said host device which received that message.

16. An image processing system built by connecting a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, wherein said device connected to said system comprises:

communication control means for controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

a card interface for connecting a card device;

card control means for controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

communication means for sharing device information between said host device and said card device via said card control means and said communication control means; and

control means for allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by said communication means, and

when said device is in a power saving mode upon receiving a processing request from the other device connected via said card device, said control means starts a printer initial operation, and said control means sends the request information to said host device, and

when a request other than the print request is received, said control means does not start the printer initial mode operation even when said device is in the

power saving mode, and said communication means sends the request information to said host device.

17. The system according to claim 16, wherein said card control means has output control means for determining processing performance of said device on the basis of the information shared by said communication means, when said output control means determines that said device can process by itself, a processing request is output to only said device, and when said output control means determines that said device cannot process by itself, a processing request is issued to said host device and said device.

18. The system according to claim 16, wherein said device includes a printer device.

19. An image data processing method for processing data by exchanging information between a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, comprising:

the communication control step of controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

the step of executing a connection process to a card device via a card interface;

the card control step of controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

the communication step of sharing device information between said host device and said card device via processes of the card control step and the communication control step; and

the control step of allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by a process of the communication step, and

in that in the communication step when said device is in a power saving mode upon receiving a processing request from the other device connected via said card device, a printer initial operation is started in the control step, and the request information is sent to said host device, and

in the communication step when a request other than the print request is received, the printer initial mode operation is not started in the control step even when said device is in the power saving mode, and the request information is sent to said host device.

20. The method according to claim 19, wherein the card control step includes the output control step of determining processing performance of said device on the basis of the information shared by the process of the communication step, when it is determined in the output control step that said device can process by itself, a processing request is output to only said device, and when it is determined in the output control step that said device cannot process by itself, a

processing request is issued to said host device and said device.

21. A computer readable storage medium which stores a program module for making a computer implement an image data processing method for processing data by exchanging information between a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, said program module comprising:

a communication control module for controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

a connection process module for executing a connection process to a card device via a card interface;

a card control module for controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

a communication module for sharing device information between said host device and said card device via processes of said card control module and said communication control module; and

a control module for allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by a process of said communication module, and

in that when said device is in a power saving mode upon receiving a processing request from the other device connected via said card device, said control

module starts a printer initial operation, and said control module sends the request information to said host device, and

when a request other than the print request is received, said control module does not start the printer initial mode operation even when said device is in the power saving mode, and said communication module sends the request information to said host device.

22. An image processing system built by connecting a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, wherein said device connected to said system comprises:

communication control means for controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

a card interface for connecting a card device;

card control means for controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

communication means for sharing device information between said host device and said card device via said card control means and said communication control means; and

control means for allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by said communication means,

said host device comprises:

recognition means for recognizing a device connected by said communication control means; and

driver detection means for automatically detecting driver software optimal to the device recognized by said recognition means, and

said card control means checks compatibility between the detected driver software and said card device, and automatically updates a control program of said card device.

23. The system according to claim 22, wherein the driver software is pre-stored in one of a CD-ROM, a DVD-ROM, and an external memory connected to said host device.

24. The system according to claim 22, wherein the driver software is pre-stored in storage means of a device connected to a network.

25. The system according to claim 22, wherein when said card control means determines that the detected driver software is not compatible with the control program of said card device, said card control means requests said host device to change the driver software, and said host device detects and changes optimal driver software that is compatible with said card device in response to the request.

26. An image data processing method for processing data by exchanging information between a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a

storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, comprising:

the communication control step of controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

the step of executing a connection process to a card device via a card interface;

the card control step of controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

the communication step of sharing device information between said host device and said card device via processes of the card control step and the communication control step;

the control step of allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by a process of the communication step;

the recognition step of recognizing a device connected by a process of the communication control step; and

the driver detection step of automatically detecting driver software optimal to the device recognized by a process of the recognition step, and

in that a process of the control step checks compatibility between the detected driver software and said card device, and automatically updates a control program of said card device.

27. The method according to claim 26, wherein when the process of the card control step determines that the detected driver software is not compatible with the control program of said card device, the process of the card control step requests said host device to change the driver software, and said host device detects and changes optimal driver software that is compatible with said card device in response to the request.

28. A computer readable storage medium which stores a program module for making a computer implement an image data processing method for processing data by exchanging information between a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, said program module comprising:

a communication control module for controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

a connection process module for executing a connection process to a card device via a card interface;

a card control module for controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

a communication module for sharing device information between said host device and said card device via processes of said card control module and said communication control module;

a control module for allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by a process of said communication module;

a recognition module for recognizing a device connected by a process of said communication control module; and

a driver detection module for automatically detecting driver software optimal to the device recognized by a process of said recognition module, and

in that a process of said control module checks compatibility between the detected driver software and said card device, and automatically updates a control program of said card device.

29. The medium according to claim 28, wherein when the process of said card control module determines that the detected driver software is not compatible with the control program of said card device, the process of said card control module requests said host device to change the driver software, and said host device detects and changes optimal driver software that is compatible with said card device in response to the request.

30. An image processing system built by connecting a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, wherein said device connected to said system comprises:

communication control means for controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

a card interface for connecting a card device;

card control means for controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

communication means for sharing device information between said host device and said card device via said card control means and said communication control means;

control means for allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by said communication means;

means for detecting a type of device connected to said host device in accordance with the device information shared by said communication means; and

means for selecting and setting a control program that is compatible with the device from storage means in accordance with the detection result, and

said control means executes the control program, and controls the device to output a processing result.

31. The system according to claim 30, wherein said control means generates composite image data by combining text information, image information, audio information, and the like stored in storage device of each device connected, and information obtained via the control program as needed, and controls the device to output the processing result.

32. The system according to claim 30, wherein an application program which runs on said host device has:

a first control program for a print operation; and

a second control program for generating print control data to be printed by the device connected to said host device in accordance with operation contents requested by said first control program,

input information from said first control program to said second control program includes at least image information, and print mode information for designating a print output speed and quality,

said first control program passes, as the input information, print mode information automatically generated in accordance with a type of image data to be printed, a designated print paper medium type, and select information designated by operation, and image information, to said second control program,

said second control program generates the print control data in accordance with the input information, and

said control means outputs a print image to said device in accordance with the print control data.

33. An image data processing method for processing data by exchanging information between a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a

storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, comprising:

the communication control step of controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

the step of executing a connection process to a card device via a card interface;

the card control step of controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

the communication step of sharing device information between said host device and said card device via processes of the card control step and the communication control step;

the control step of allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by a process of the communication step;

the step of detecting a type of device connected to said host device in accordance with the device information shared by the process of the communication step; and

the step of selecting and setting a control program that is compatible with the device from storage means in accordance with the detection result, and

in that a process of the control step executes the control program, and controls the device to output a processing result.

34. The method according to claim 33, wherein the process of the control step generates composite image data by combining text information, image information, audio information, and the like stored in storage device of each device connected, and information obtained via the control program as needed, and controls the device to output the processing result.

35. A computer readable storage medium which stores a program module for making a computer implement an image data processing method for processing data by exchanging information between a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, said program module comprising:

a communication control module for controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

a connection process module for executing a connection process to a card device via a card interface;

a card control module for controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

a communication module for sharing device information between said host device and said card device via processes of said card control module and said communication control module;

a control module for allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by a process of said communication module;

a module for detecting a type of device connected to said host device in accordance with the device information shared by the process of said communication module; and

a module for selecting and setting a control program that is compatible with the device from storage means in accordance with the detection result, and

in that a process of said control module executes the control program, and controls the device to output a processing result.

36. An image processing system built by connecting a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device which can exchange information such as image data, audio data, and the like with said host device, said device including at least a device comprising a print function, wherein said device connected to said system comprises:

communication control means for controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

communication means for sharing device information between said host device and said card device via said communication control means;

control means for allowing another device connected to use information shared by said communication means;

means for detecting a type of device connected to said host device in accordance with the device information shared by said communication means; and

means for selecting and setting a control program that is compatible with the device from storage means in accordance with the detection result, and

said control means executes the control program, and controls the device to output a processing result.

37. The system according to claim 36, wherein said control means generates composite image data by combining text information, image information, audio information, and the like stored in storage means of each device connected, and information obtained via the control program as needed, and controls the device to output the processing result.

38. The system according to claim 36, wherein an application program which runs on said host device has:

a first control program for a print operation; and

a second control program for generating print control data to be printed by the device connected to said host device in accordance with operation contents requested by said first control program,

input information from said first control program to said second control program includes at least image information, and print mode information for designating a print output speed and quality,

said first control program passes, as the input information, print mode information automatically generated in accordance with a type of image data to be printed, a designated print paper medium type, and select information designated by operation, and image information, to said second control program,

said second control program generates the print control data in accordance with the input information, and

said control means outputs a print image to said device in accordance with the print control data.

39. An image data processing method for processing data by exchanging information between devices in an image processing system built by connecting a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device which can exchange information such as image data, audio data, and the like with said host device, said device including at least a device comprising a print function, said method comprising:

the communication control step of controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

the communication step of sharing device information between said host device and said card device via a process of the communication control step;

the control step of allowing another device connected to use information shared by a process of the communication step;

the step of detecting a type of device connected to said host device in accordance with the device information shared by the process of the communication step; and

the step of selecting and setting a control program that is compatible with the device from storage means in accordance with the detection result, and

in that a process of the control step executes the control program, and controls the device to output a processing result.

40. The method according to claim 39, wherein the process of the control step generates composite image data by combining text information, image information, audio information, and the like stored in storage means of each device connected, and information obtained via the control program as needed, and controls the device to output the processing result.

41. A computer readable storage medium which stores a program for making a computer implement an image data processing method for processing data by exchanging information between devices in an image processing

system built by connecting a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device which can exchange information such as image data, audio data, and the like with said host device, said device including at least a device comprising a print function, said program module comprising:

a communication control module for controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

a communication module for sharing device information between said host device and said card device via a process of said communication control module;

a control module for allowing another device connected to use information shared by a process of said communication module;

a module for detecting a type of device connected to said host device in accordance with the device information shared by the process of said communication module; and

a module for selecting and setting a control program that is compatible with the device from storage means in accordance with the detection result, and

in that a process of said control module executes the control program, and controls the device to output a processing result.

42. An image processing system built by connecting a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, wherein said device connected to said system comprises:

communication control means for controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

a card interface for connecting a card device;

card control means for controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

communication means for sharing device information between said host device and said card device via said card control means and said communication control means; and

control means for allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by said communication means, and

said host device comprises:

identification means for identifying for all devices connected on the basis of the device information shared by said communication means if the devices are usable; and

suppression control means for, when none of devices which are used upon executing an application program can be used in accordance with an identification result of said identification means, inhibiting the application program from being launched.

43. The system according to claim 42, wherein when an application program which allows said card device to use another device connected is selected and executed, and when none of devices which are used upon executing an application program can be used in accordance with an identification result of said identification means, said suppression control means displays an icon used to select the application program in a selection-inhibited state, and when the selection-inhibited icon is selected, a notice indicating that a device to be used to execute the application is not available is generated.

44. The system according to claim 43, wherein the notice is one of text, image, and audio alerts or an operation sequence.

45. The system according to claim 42, wherein when the identification result of said identification means changes to indicate that the device can be used, said suppression control means cancels an inhibition process of selection and execution of the application program, and said control program launches the designated application program.

46. The system according to claim 42, wherein when at least one device can be used, said control means launches a target application program, and

said suppression control means inhibits a program corresponding to a device that cannot be used from being launched.

47. The system according to claim 45, wherein when the identification result of said identification means changes to indicate that the device can be used, said suppression control means changes the icon used to designate the application program to a selectable state.

48. The system according to claim 42, wherein said host device further comprises type detection means for detecting a type of information which can be acquired from said card device, and

when the number of types of information that can be acquired from said card device is one, said control means launches an application program which is pre-set for each information type.

49. The system according to claim 48, wherein when a plurality of application programs are pre-set for each information type, said control means outputs a selection screen of those application program, makes a user select a desired application program, and launches the selected application program.

50. The system according to claim 48, comprising:

operation means for creating, editing, and saving information for each type, which is set in advance; and

storage control means for saving the information for each type in storage means of a certain device connected.

51. The system according to claim 42, wherein said host device reads out information from said card device, and writes the information in storage means of said device by sending a predetermined request to a device connected.

52. The system according to claim 42, wherein said host device comprises storage control means for controlling to read out information or a control program of storage means of each device connected, and to rewrite the information or the control program.

53. An image data processing method for processing data by exchanging information between a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, comprising:

the communication control step of controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

the step of executing a connection process to a card device via a card interface;

the card control step of controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

the communication step of sharing device information between said host device and said card

device via processes of the card control step and the communication control step;

the control step of allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by a process of the communication step;

the identification step of identifying for all devices connected on the basis of the device information shared by the process of the communication step if the devices are usable; and

the suppression control step of inhibiting, when none of devices which are used upon executing an application program can be used in accordance with an identification result of a process of the identification step, the application program from being launched.

54. A computer readable storage medium which stores a program module for making a computer implement an image data processing method for processing data by exchanging information between a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, said program module comprising:

a communication control module for controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

a connection process module for executing a connection process to a card device via a card interface;

a card control module for controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

a communication module for sharing device information between said host device and said card device via processes of said card control module and said communication control module;

a control module for allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by a process of said communication module;

an identification module for identifying for all devices connected on the basis of the device information shared by the process of said communication module if the devices are usable; and

a suppression control module for, when none of devices which are used upon executing an application program can be used in accordance with an identification result of a process of said identification module, inhibiting the application program from being launched.

55. An image processing system built by connecting a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device which can exchange information such as image data, audio data, and the like with said host device, said device including at least a device comprising a print function, wherein said device connected to said system comprises:

communication control means for controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

communication means for sharing device information between said host device and said card device via said communication control means;

control means for allowing another device connected to use information shared by said communication means, and

said host device comprises:

identification means for identifying for all devices connected on the basis of the device information shared by said communication means if the devices are usable; and

suppression control means for, when none of devices which are used upon executing an application program can be used in accordance with an identification result of said identification means, inhibiting the application program from being launched.

56. The system according to claim 55, wherein when an application program which allows to use another device connected is selected and executed, and when none of devices which are used upon executing an application program can be used in accordance with an identification result of said identification means, said suppression control means displays an icon used to select the application program in a selection-inhibited state, and when the selection-inhibited icon is

selected, a notice indicating that a device to be used to execute the application is not available is generated.

57. The system according to claim 56, wherein the notice is one of text, image, and audio alerts or an operation sequence.

58. The system according to claim 55, wherein when the identification result of said identification means changes to indicate that the device can be used, said suppression control means cancels an inhibition process of selection and execution of the application program, and said control program launches the designated application program.

59. The system according to claim 55, wherein when at least one device can be used, said control means launches a target application program, and

said suppression control means inhibits a program corresponding to a device that cannot be used from being launched.

60. The system according to claim 58, wherein when the identification result of said identification means changes to indicate that the device can be used, said suppression control means changes the icon used to designate the application program to a selectable state.

61. The system according to claim 55, wherein said host device further comprises type detection means for

detecting a type of information which can be acquired from said device connected, and

when the number of types of information that can be acquired from said device connected is one, said control means launches an application program which is pre-set for each information type.

62. The system according to claim 61, wherein when a plurality of application programs are pre-set for each information type, said control means outputs a selection screen of those application program, makes a user select a desired application program, and launches the selected application program.

63. The system according to claim 61, comprising:

operation means for creating, editing, and saving information for each type, which is set in advance; and

storage control means for saving the information for each type in storage means of a certain device connected.

64. The system according to claim 55, wherein said host device reads out information from a device connected, and writes the information in storage means of said device by sending a predetermined request to said device.

65. The system according to claim 55, wherein said host device comprises storage control means for controlling to read out information or a control

program of storage means of each device connected, and to rewrite the information or the control program.

66. An image data processing method for processing data by exchanging information between devices in an image processing system built by connecting a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device which can exchange information such as image data, audio data, and the like with said host device, said device including at least a device comprising a print function, said method comprising:

the communication control step of controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

the communication step of sharing device information between said host device and said card device via a process of the communication control step;

the control step of allowing another device connected to use information shared by a process of the communication step;

the identification step of identifying for all devices connected on the basis of the device information shared by the process of the communication step if the devices are usable; and

the suppression control step of inhibiting, when none of devices which are used upon executing an application program can be used in accordance with an identification result of a process of the

identification step, the application program from being launched.

67. A computer readable storage medium which stores a program for making a computer implement an image data processing method for processing data by exchanging information between devices in an image processing system built by connecting a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device which can exchange information such as image data, audio data, and the like with said host device, said device including at least a device comprising a print function, said program module comprising:

a communication control module for controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

a communication module for sharing device information between said host device and said card device via a process of said communication control module;

a control module for allowing another device connected to use information shared by a process of said communication module;

an identification module for identifying for all devices connected on the basis of the device information shared by the process of said communication module if the devices are usable; and

a suppression control module for, when none of devices which are used upon executing an application program can be used in accordance with an identification result of a process of said identification module, inhibiting the application program from being launched.

68. The system according to claim 1, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

69. The method according to claim 7, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

70. The medium according to claim 8, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

71. The system according to claim 9, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

72. The method according to claim 12, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

73. The medium according to claim 15, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

74. The system according to claim 16, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

75. The method according to claim 19, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

76. The medium according to claim 21, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

77. The system according to claim 22, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

78. The method according to claim 26, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

79. The medium according to claim 28, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

80. The system according to claim 30, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

81. The method according to claim 33, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

82. The medium according to claim 35, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

83. The system according to claim 36, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

84. The method according to claim 39, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

85. The medium according to claim 41, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

86. The system according to claim 42, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

87. The method according to claim 53, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

88. The medium according to claim 54, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

89. The system according to claim 55, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

90. The method according to claim 66, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

91. The medium according to claim 67, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

Substitute Sheet (Rule 26)